Investment in Gas Sector

1449. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry's Sub-group on Natural Gas has projected a Rs. 40,000 crore investment in the gas sector, besides a five-fold increase in imports of LNG to 25 million tonne per annum from the existing 5-6 million tonne per annum;

(b) if so, whether a sharp increase in the domestic gas supplies have also been projected during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period from 70.54 mmscmd in 2007-08 to 192 MMSCMD by 2011-12.;

(c) if so, the details of the projects that will be undertaken; and

(d) to what extent it will be helpful to meet the demand of gas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The report of the Sub-Group on Natural Gas has projected an investment of about Rs. 40000 crore in the Natural Gas Sector during the XI Plan Period (2007-12), covering LNG terminals, Inter-State Gas Transmission Pipe lines and City Distribution Pipelines.

The LNG import is projected to increase to 23.75 million tonnes per annum (MMTPA), equivalent to 83 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD).

(b) The report states that while, domestic supplies from existing fields of ONGC would show a decline, the gas supply from KG basin would see a significant increase. On the basis of supplies presently certified by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), the gas availability is likely to go up to 98.3 MMSCMD by the year 2011-12. This is based on gas supply of 40MMSCMD from RIL's offshore blocks in the K.G. Basin. However, RIL has projected production beyond this level, though it has yet to be certified by DGH. Similarly GSPCL's production has yet to be certified by DGH.

(c) The E&P projects in progress in the KG basin which are expected to start production from 2008-09 onwards are RIL D6 field and GSPCL

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field. In addition to E&P projects, the capacity of Dahej LNG Terminal is being expanded from 5 MMTPA to 10 MMTPA, The 5 MMTPS Dabhol LNG Terminal would be fully operational in 2009. Also the 2.5 MMTPA Kochi LNG Terminal, with provision of expansion of 5 MMTPA, would be commissioned by 2009-10. The total LNG capacity is projected to increase to 23.75 MMTPA (83MMSCMD).

(d) Given the status and progress of the domestic and import projects, the supply is expected to increase significantly during the Eleventh plan and would, to a great extent, bridge the gap between demand and supply.

Low budget tourist hotels

1450. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether middle class tourists are experiencing great difficulty in locating hotels within their limits at cities like Chandigarh where the stay for a night costs Rs. 2,000 and above per room for two;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to make available low budget tourist hotels to attract tourists; and

(c) the names of the hotels at Chandigarh costing less than Rs. 1000?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir. There are many low cost hotels and Guest Houses in Chandigarh.

(b) Ministry of Tourism has asked all the State Governments and other land owning agencies including Indian Railways to allocate land for building hotels especially in the budget category. Ministry of Tourism also has a scheme "Incentive to Accommodation Infrastructure" under which subsidy of **10%** of the principal loan is given to the hotel of budget and low-budget categories, subject to a maximum assistance of Rs. 25 lakh for one star hotels; Rs. 50 lakh for 2 star hotels and Rs. 75 lakh for 3 star hotels. Further, in order to increase the number of rooms in the budget category, Ministry of tourism has a scheme for the approval of Guesthouses and incredible India Bed & Breakfast establishments. The State Governments have been advised to follow investor friendly land policies and single window approach for promoting hotel projects and also for allotting sites on revenue sharing basis, granting extra FSI/FAR for hotels, permitting